

Freeman's Champion.



Prairie City, Kansas, July 9, 1857.

We have to beg the indulgence of our patrons this week for our tardy appearance and the imperfect print of the first side of our paper. Our ink-roller was too delicate to endure the extremely hot weather of late, and so it "caved." Through a series of misfortunes we have at last been enabled to cast a new one, and we shall use every exertion to bring our paper up to time next week.

A Cursory Glance.

In April, 1854, Congress passed a bill to organize the Territory of Kansas and Nebraska. That bill allowed the settlers of those Territories the privilege of being "perfectly free to form and regulate their domestic institutions, in their own way." Congress was to have no more jurisdiction over the Territories than she has over any State in the Union; government was only to see the rights of the people of those Territories protected. With a full and perfect understanding of the true intent and meaning of the principles contained in the Nebraska-Kansas bill, people from every section of the Union flocked to Kansas to seek homes, carrying with them in their bosoms the sentiments and prejudices which they had nourished in their infancy, and which they had ever cherished. People came here from the Sunny South who believed the institution of slavery to be just and right. They were anxious to establish their "peculiar institution" here, and brought with them their chattels, their influences and their means to accomplish their end. People from the North came here entertaining opposite views. They believed slavery to be antagonistic to the principles of morality and justice, contradictory with the law of God, and detrimental to the interests of the laboring man. They came here not only to seek homes for themselves and families, but to establish a Free State; a State free from the polluting influences and destructive tendencies of slavery. Both parties were honest in their convictions, ardent in their desires, and sanguine in their hopes and expectations. But the South could not compete with the energetic spirit of the North. It was plainly to be seen that Freedom was gaining vantage-ground over Slavery. Pro-slavery propagandists saw that means beyond that of fairness would have to be resorted to for the purpose of establishing their accursed institution in Kansas.

On the 29th of November, 1854, occurred the first election in the Territory, which was held for the purpose of electing a Territorial Delegate to Congress. The allies of the Pro-slavery party in Kansas—the Border Ruffians of Missouri—flocked here in immense hordes, seized our ballot boxes, with the bowie knife, the revolver and the bayonet, kept us aloof from the polls, and by means unparalleled for atrocity in the history of civilized nations, elected a Pro-slavery delegate. On March 30th, following, at the election for a Territorial Legislature, similar fiendish outrages were repeated. The Ruffians of Missouri elected a Legislature for Kansas; that Legislature assembled, adopted the entire statutes of Missouri in a body, with the exception of a few local clauses of such infamous nature as would darken the records of heathen history. The National Executive, his cabinet and the Democratic members of Congress, looked upon these proceedings—looked upon these ruthless disfranchisements of the lovers of freedom—looked upon these total desertions and utter disregard of the principles and provisions of the Nebraska-Kansas bill, and pronounced them good, just and wholesome. They turned a deaf ear to our entreaties, disregarded our protests and petitions, and chuckled with satirical glee at the success which attended their efforts in placing slavery in Kansas.

The Democratic party could not bear of Missouri invaders seizing our ballot boxes and archives and

making laws for us; they could not hear of the Border Ruffians murdering our citizens, plundering our property, burning our houses, outraging our females, committing every manner of depredation upon the devotees of freedom, hoping that by thus constantly harassing them they would retire and give up the field to the Ruffians. No! But they could hear of emissaries, miscreants, paupers and nigger-thieves being sent out here under the auspices of the Emigrant Aid Society to vote and establish a republic of Abolitionism; they could hear of these "abolition paupers" making loud boasts and threats as they proceeded up the Missouri, and of their repeated attempts to steal human chattels; they could hear of abolition scum rising from the lazar-houses and pest-holes of the nigger-loving and wench-hugging North and settling in Kansas, to there riot and wallow in their iniquities; they could hear these things. Everything imaginable that could be done to further the interests of the Pro-slavery party and to crush the liberties of people tainted with Free State proclivities, was done by the Administration and the Democratic party.

The dearest constitutional rights of a majority of the people of Kansas having been thus fraudulently and violently taken from them, they resolved to institute some course of action which would secure them their liberties. Accordingly they assembled in mass convention at Lawrence, April 14th, 1855, when they repudiated the bogus Legislature and perfected arrangements for a delegate convention at Big Springs. This movement was followed up until the Topeka Constitution was framed. That Constitution emanated from the people of Kansas—not Missouri—and was the true embodiment of their sentiments and principles. The process of originating this Constitution was legal. It was presented to Congress, and the Democratic party spurned it with contempt. The popular branch of Congress accepted it. The National administration and the Democratic party opposed it because it would afford justice to the people of the Territory, and that justice would be detrimental to the interests of the Pro-slavery party.

The bogus authorities endeavored to enforce their tyrannical laws, but the people rose up in their might and opposed them. A war ensued. An oppressed people were arrayed against a powerful government; a government that eighty years before was in a condition similar to that of these people. The people of Kansas, like the patriots of '76, knew they were in the right, and that knowledge nerved them to defend their cause with resolute will and iron determination. By enduring such hardships and privations, and by exhibiting such valor, independence and true patriotism as was equalled only by our revolutionary sires, Freedom triumphed in Kansas, and the army of a despotic administration retired from the field in disgust.

The efforts of the Democratic party to plant slavery in Kansas have proved futile. Their nefarious schemes have been frustrated by the strong resistance of a freedom-loving people.

When the Administration saw that Freedom would win and that their pet "law and order" army would be crushed and annihilated, they sent out a Governor to establish peace; a peace which the sons of Freedom would soon have effected themselves. The Democratic Administration claim the honor of making peace for the people of Kansas. For the glorious and most blessed privilege of enjoying peace, they wish us to crouch down upon our knees before them, lick their hands, and exclaim, "At your service, massa!"

The hopes of making Kansas a slave State is now given up by the pro-slavery party. The issue now is not "shall Kansas be enslaved or free?" but "who shall have the honor of making it free?" True, an insignificant faction have elected delegates to form a slavery constitution, but it don't amount to anything. They are ashamed of their operations, and have no hope of their success.

The Democratic party, after insisting us after oppressing us, after doing their utmost to crush us, in their object, are now anxious to

obtain the honor of making Kansas a free State. They have sent out a cunning fox, laden with gold, to purchase our principles, and to decoy us into the ranks of our enemies. To distract the Free State organization and to build up a party under their supervision, is now their aim. To hire acknowledged free State journals to abuse and vilify the characters of those noble men, who, by their severe struggles through many hard-fought battles, secured freedom for Kansas, and to call them *horse thieves*, "moon-struck politicians," &c., is a part of their programme.

Shall the schemes of the Democratic party succeed? Shall we abandon the position that has won for us the esteem and sympathies of the lovers of free institutions throughout the world? Shall we intrust our fate in the hands of a party who have no sympathy for us, and who would betray us at the first opportunity? Shall we still continue to stand up boldly and manfully for our rights and demand them of Congress; or crawl on our bellies to the Democratic party, like whipped serfs to their masters, and beg of them, "mercy?" Which?

Disressing Accident.

Last Wednesday afternoon, as a lad aged about twelve years, son of Mr. VAN BLARICON, who resides about two miles from Prairie City, was about unhitching an ox team from a stone boat, the team got frightened, and commenced running. The lad got caught in the chain, was thrown under the stone boat, and was dragged about for several minutes, the team being in full run, ere they could be stopped by the father. When picked up, the lad was found to be mortally injured, the shoulder blade having been broken and the body mangled and bruised to complete jelly. He uttered "Oh, father!" and expired ere medical assistance could be obtained. This should be a warning to our people about intrusting unruly cattle with youngsters.

A Comparison.

S. N. WOOD, Esq., in getting address at the celebration of Prairie City on the 4th inst., in speaking of the zigzag course pursued by Gov. WALKER since his arrival in the Territory, compares him to the man who inquired of a boy the way to a certain place.

Says the man:—"Won't you please to show me the way to ———?"

Boy—"Yes, sir; with pleasure.—You first go down that hill yonder; you then go up the next till you come to a big black stump; about a mile farther you will see a small tree; turn to the left and proceed about one mile and you will see a sheep pasture; go through the pasture and climb over the fence at the other end and you will come to a little tree in the woods; turn to the left of the tree and go about a mile farther and you will see the best grove of timber you ever saw!"

MAN—"Well, what of that?"

Boy—"Why, sir, if you ain't lost by that time then I'll be d—d!"

That's precisely the way, said Mr. WOOD, with Gov. WALKER. He first speaks at Leavenworth and makes fair promises and pleases the people there; he proceeds to Lawrence and makes a flowery little speech there, in which he says the people shall be protected in their rights &c.; goes up to Leavenworth and crosses himself to please the people there, and so on through Topeka, Big Springs and Paola—adapting his harangues to the people where addressed. "If by following his directions, we don't get lost, then I'll be—disappointed!"

The second number of the Kansas News published at Emporia, Kansas, by our friend P. B. PLUM, Esq., is before us. PLUM gets up a handsome paper, as well as a very readable one. He is assisted in the editorial department by Mr. R. J. HARRIS, correspondent of the Boston Traveller, who is a ready and able writer. The News is a Free State paper of the right stripe, and will do good service in our cause.—We hope it will meet with the success it deserves. Terms, \$2.00 per annum.

Fourth District Convention.

At a meeting of the citizens of the Fourth Representative District, held at Prairie City, 7th inst., to elect delegates to the Convention to be held at Topeka, July 15th, the meeting was called to order by Hon. EMERY FULLER, who nominated Mr. G. W. E. GRIFFITH President, and S. S. PROUTY was elected Secretary. Judge CONWAY, of Lawrence, who was present by invitation, addressed the meeting for a few minutes, and showed them the importance of sending delegates to Topeka who were resolved to stand by the Topeka organization. Gov. Walker was making strenuous efforts to pack delegates to this convention who have been bought from the Free State ranks to aid him in forming a Free State Democratic party, and those delegates would do their utmost to split the Free State party; therefore it behooves us to send men who were honest and ardent advocates of Free State principles.

On motion of Hon. P. FULLER, a committee of five was appointed by the President, consisting of Messrs. P. FULLER, S. S. PROUTY, WM. MEWHINNEY, RALPH MAYFIELD and S. V. McMANUS, to nominate delegates.

The committee retired a few moments, and during their absence a discussion ensued between Messrs. AUSTIN and CARVER, relative to the best policy to be pursued by the Free State party.

The nominating committee reported the following names as candidates: S. T. SHORE, WM. GRAHAM, L. F. CARVER, R. MAYFIELD, P. FULLER and WM. AUSTIN.

On motion the report of the committee was accepted.

Moved by Dr. CANNIFF, that each candidate be requested to define his position, and state positively whether or not he is in favor of, and is willing to stick by the Topeka constitution. Carried.

CAPT. SHORE—Gentlemen, I have always been in favor of the principles of the Topeka Constitution, and am willing to stick by it so long as I see there is a hope of our being admitted into the Union under it.

On motion he was elected.

DR. GRAHAM—I was one that helped frame the Topeka Constitution, and shall never desert it. My motto is to hang to it whether Congress accepts us or not. Everybody admits that our principles are right and just, and for Heaven's sake, so long as we endorse righteous principles, who can object to us? Don't let us flinch one iota from a straightforward and manly course. Let us carry the flag that we unfurled to the breeze last summer, and which waves so triumphantly and proudly over our heads, to Washington, and there demand our rights. The port of Liberty will be safely reached by that course, and by no other. (Great applause.)

On motion DR. GRAHAM was declared unanimously elected.

MR. CARVER—My sentiments are pretty well known here, I presume. I go in heart and soul for the Topeka Constitution.

On motion he was elected.

MR. MAYFIELD—The principles of the Topeka organization are good enough, but the question is, is it policy for us to adhere to it any longer? I have some doubts about it. I was in favor of voting at the last election—bought if you are pleased to term it—to send Free State delegates to the Leavenworth constitutional convention. I believe we could have won there. I am in favor of voting under the Territorial regulations next fall, if we can see no better way of accomplishing our ends.

He was elected; 22 for and 14 against him—many not voting.

MR. AUSTIN—The Topeka constitution is a good one. I have no objections to it.

Elected.

MR. FULLER—You all know me, gentlemen. I have always been in favor of the Topeka constitution and am now.

On motion he was declared elected.

Judge CONWAY then entertained the meeting for a few minutes with a powerful and telling speech. He showed that the Democratic party, after having done their utmost to establish slavery in Kansas, and crush the liberties of the noble advocates of freedom, now that they saw their efforts in that line were futile

and hopeless, and that Kansas must be a Free State, were making every exertion to entice the people they so oppressed to abandon their old ground and unite with them (the Democratic party) in forming a party under their banners, so they could claim the honor of making this a Free State. Let us not forget who were and are our enemies. We cannot trust them.—We must not be ensnared by Gov. WALKER's wily schemes. The Governor comes into the Territory and makes fine speeches and fair promises—[A question—Did he bring any wool along with him?] Plenty of it but it does him no good, though he thinks it does [Laughter]. As I was saying he comes here and makes gassy speeches and soft-soap palaverings, tells us that Kansas will be a Free State and all this sort of thing—but we must abandon the Topeka constitution! He tells us he will have all the Indian titles extinguished—shall have four sections of land appropriated to every township for school purposes, shall have a rail-road passing by every man's door in the Territory—shall be the happiest, the greatest, the noblest and the richest people in the nation, if we will forsake the Topeka Constitution! It is just like the attempt of Satan on the mount to induce our Savior to turn traitor and join his ranks, WALKER's bribes are similar to that of the devil's. A certain gentleman here has remarked that the principles of the Topeka constitution are right, but that he believes Congress will refuse to admit us under it if we apply again for admission into the Union under it. He thinks that because we were unsuccessful the first time we will be again, and is in favor, therefore, for policy's sake, of abandoning our organization and accepting something new. He says that the Democratic party are in power now, and unless we do something to court their favor they will reject us. Ah! this is the argument of the timid and the coward.

If you *knew* we are right, why not stand up boldly and fairly and maintain it? Are we to bend down upon our knees and kiss the hands of our oppressors, or sacrifice our honor and principle for thirty pieces of silver, for the hope of sliding a little easier into the Union? Never! I maintain that the Topeka constitution was legally organized, and I challenge any one here to prove that it was not. I am much pleased with the spirit manifested here, and I congratulate you upon the choice selection of delegates you have made to represent you at Topeka.

During the election for delegates, several racy speeches were made by different gentlemen present, which want of room prevents us from publishing.

On motion the convention adjourned.

The Ladies of Centropolis.

We heard several strangers remark at the celebration here on the Fourth, that in no place in the Territory had they seen so large an assemblage of pretty girls as were congregated in the arbor—and congratulated Prairie City for being blessed with such good fortune. We enjoyed the compliment truly, and duty ought to have compelled us to explain the matter, but probably owing to that jealous and selfish spirit that sometimes pervades the inhabitants of rival towns, we wished Prairie City to attain the name of being the "city of fairies." Our conscience tells us that we did wrong, so now we will let out a secret and endeavor to make amends. It is to Centropolis that we were indebted for such a galaxy of beauty as were present at our celebration.—It is true that we have some as handsome ladies as can be found anywhere; but it must be admitted that Centropolis turned out a larger delegation on the Fourth than we did. Centropolis must be a delightful place to live in. We have never been there, but if her ladies are a criterion to be guided by, she must be one of the handsomest towns in Kansas.

Editors in Town.

On the 4th inst., Mr. WM. PAUL, one of the editorial corps of the N. Y. Tribune, NORMAN ALLEN, junior editor of the Lawrence Republican, and Mr. WM. AUSTIN, editor of the Kansas Leader, were in town, and participated in our celebration.

The Fourth.

That we had a Fourth in Prairie City this year, we leave for the five or six hundred people who participated in the celebration last Saturday to testify. Every person present on the occasion whom we have heard speak concerning it, say that it was the best celebration they ever attended in the Territory. Nothing was wanting to make the celebration a complete one, and everything passed off harmoniously and quietly.

At 10 o'clock the Ottawa Rangers, guests and citizens assembled at the office of the FREEMAN'S CHAMPION, where they were arranged in marching order by the Grand Marshal, THOMAS MEWHINNEY, when the procession, headed by the Lawrence "Stubbs" Military band, moved down to the United Brethren Church, where they were joined by the ladies and the Prairie City Sabbath School. As they were about to proceed to the arbor on Liberty Hill, the Sabbath School of Centropolis, in wagons, decorated with flags and banners, presenting a most imposing appearance, were observed approaching up Santa Fe street. The procession waited for the Centropolis school to join them, and then marched to the arbor. The procession presented a grand and imposing spectacle. At the head was the military band of the Lawrence "Stubbs," next came a portion of the company of the Ottawa Rangers, who made themselves so conspicuous, by their heroic exploits, during the difficulties of last season; following them were the orators of the day; next came the Centropolis Sabbath School; next the Prairie City Sabbath School; following them were the ladies, citizens and guests.

Arriving at the arbor, the exercises commenced with a prayer offered by the Rev. Mr. ———; singing, by the choir, which had been formed expressly for the occasion; addresses to the Sabbath Schools by the Rev. Mr. TAYLOR, Rev. Mr. ——— and Mr. ANDREWS. The sumptuous dinner, prepared by Mr. WM. MEWHINNEY, was then despatched in short order. Owing to larger numbers being present than was expected and also to the scarcity of table furniture, many were deprived of the best bounties of the table; but it is presumed that none went away hungry.

The exercises after dinner commenced by reading the Declaration of Independence by Mr. ANDREWS. S. N. WOOD, Esq., of Lawrence, orator of the day, then entertained the audience for about an hour with a splendid speech; one appropriate for the time and the occasion. He commenced by giving a brief history of the origin of the Revolutionary war; cursorily glanced at the intervening period between that and the present time; showed how the slavery oligarchy had fastened its fetters upon our free institutions, and how rapidly our government was meandering from the position adopted by its founders.—He then treated on Kansas matters, and gave a view of the different parties in the Territory; unfolded the scheme that had been concocted by wily demagogues to distract the Free State party for the purpose of forming a Free State Democratic party, so they could claim the honor of securing the freedom of Kansas; clearly demonstrated the necessity of our firmly adhering to our present organization, and showed how feasible our success would be would we act unitedly. Mr. WOOD made a good speech. It was just such a one as our citizens wanted, and by them it was well received.

MR. WM. PHILLIPS, the Kansas correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune, succeeded Mr. WOOD with a few well-timed remarks. We regret that the lateness of the hour prevented Mr. PHILLIPS from favoring us with a more lengthy speech. What he said was very appropriate and to the point, and that his remarks gave satisfaction to the audience, it was evidently manifested by their continual applause.

In the evening was exhibited display of fireworks on Liberty Hill, and the "Lads and Lasses" assembled at the house of Mr. WINTOR, and passed a most agreeable evening in the delightful recreation of "tripping the light fantastic toe," and a happier company and a prettier display of youth and beauty were not witnessed.